

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DACCA 02151 221703Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05
AID-05 IO-13 DEAE-00 SNM-02 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 /088 W

-----221706Z 073182 /43

O 221615Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4358

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DACCA 2151

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, BG

SUBJ: ZIA ADDRESSES NATION AS PRESIDENT; ANNOUNCES GENERAL ELECTIONS
IN DECEMBER, 1978.

1. GENERAL ZIA GAVE HIS FIRST SPEECH TO THE NATION AS PRESIDENT
THIS EVENING, APRIL 22. AFTER FIRST ASSURING THE PEOPLE OF BANGLA-
DESH THAT HIS GOVERNMENT AIMED AT RESTORING THE RIGHTS OF THE
PEOPLE AND SUMMARIZING SOME OF HIS PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS,
SUCH AS IMPROVED LAW AND ORDER SITUATION AND DECREASED SMUGGLING,
ZIA STATED THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO RESTORE ELECTED GOVERNMENT
TO BANGLADESH. THE MAJOR POINTS IN HIS TEN-MINUTE ADDRESS,
SUMMARIZED FROM ORIGINAL BENGALI, WERE:

--THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL ELECTION IS A LOGICAL STEP.

FIRST, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST AND ULTIMATELY,
ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER,
1978;

--A NATIONAL REFERENDUM BASED ON ADULT FRANCHISE WILL BE
HELD MAY 30;

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--AS THERE IS SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CONSITUTION,
STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO INTRODUCE CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.

2. ZIA CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS BY REASSURING THE POEPL E THAT THERE
WERE SUFFICIENT FOOD STOCKS IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT MORE FOOD
IMPORTS WERE COMING. HE WARNED ALSO THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY DISTURBANCE OF

PEACE FROM ANY QUARTER, AND HE CLOSED HIS SPEECH BY HOPING
THAT ALL BENGALIS WOULD COME FORWARD UNITEDLY TO SERVE THE
NATION.

3. COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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